

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 22 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 19 and 22 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by the present amendments.

Telephonic Interview

The Examiner is thanked for granting a telephonic interview with the Applicant's representative on July 10, 2007. During the interview, the present amendment was discussed, and it was agreed that the proposed amendment to claim 1 defined over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

In the Action, claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 22, were rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The amendment to claim 1 obviates the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §112 rejection of claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 22 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Guenther (EP 0447573) in view of Männer (U.S. Patent No. 5,368,470). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present invention as currently claimed in independent claim 1 is an injection molding nozzle for plastic including at least one pair outlet openings disposed opposite one another relative to a center axis in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed toward different sides of the nozzle, for discharging to different sprue openings. Each of the outlet openings including a needle closure with a closure needle adjustable in a direction of one of the outlet openings. The nozzle also includes a common drive element that displaces the closure needles in a closing direction. The drive element is a displacement member that is movable between rear ends of the closure needles. The drive element includes a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk. The nozzle also includes a feed channel for transporting plastic to the outlet openings. The feed channel is closeable by the drive element when it displaces the closure needles.

The invention, as currently claimed by independent claim 19, is an injection molding nozzle for plastic including first and second openings in an end region of the injection molding nozzle directed radially outwardly opposite one another from a center axis of the nozzle and toward opposite sides of the nozzle for discharging to

different sprue openings. The nozzle also includes first and second closure needles, the first closure needle positioned in the first opening and the second closure needle positioned in the second opening. Also included is a common drive element that displaces the first and second closure needles in a closing direction. The drive element is a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles and slideably connected to an end of each of the first and second closure needles. The nozzle also includes a feed channel for transporting plastic to the outlet openings. The feed channel is closable by the drive element when it displaces the closure needles.

The invention, as claimed in independent claim 22, is an injection molding nozzle for plastic including first and second openings in an end region of the injection molding nozzle, for discharging to different sprue openings disposed opposite one another relative a center axis. The nozzle also includes first and second closure needles, the first closure needle is positioned in the first opening and the second closure needle is positioned in the second opening. Also included is a common drive element that displaces the first and second closure needles in a closing direction. The drive element is a displacement member movable between ends of the closure needles and slideably connected to each of the first and second closure needles. The nozzle also includes a feed channel for transporting plastic to the outlet openings. The feed channel is closeable by the drive element when it displaces the closure needles.

The amendments to claims 1, 19, and 22 clearly point out that the feed channel is closeable by the drive element when displacing the closure needles. As discussed during the interview, and agreed upon by the Examiner, the amendments to the independent claims clarify the claim language and distinguish over the proposed combination of Guenther and Männer.

Guenther discloses a hot runner nozzle (10) having conducting guide tips (28) on a thermally conductive mount (30). Guenther further fails to suggest or disclose a common drive element for displacing closure needles in a closing direction, the drive element being a displacement member movable between rear ends of the closure needles, and the drive element including a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk. Further, there is no teaching in Guenther that the feed channel is closeable by the drive element when it displaces the closure needles

Männer discloses a multiple closure pin nozzle assembly, the closure pins are closed by a piston. Männer fails to remedy the defects of Guenther since the proposed combination fails to show a common drive element that displaces the closure needles in a closing direction, as claimed. The proposed combination does not disclose that drive element is a displacement member that is movable between rear ends of the closure needles, as is claimed. Finally, the proposed combination does not disclose that the drive element includes a cross section that is at least one of a cone, conical, tapered, a cam disk and an eccentric disk.

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Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 22 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a further telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1 - 7 and 9 - 22, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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